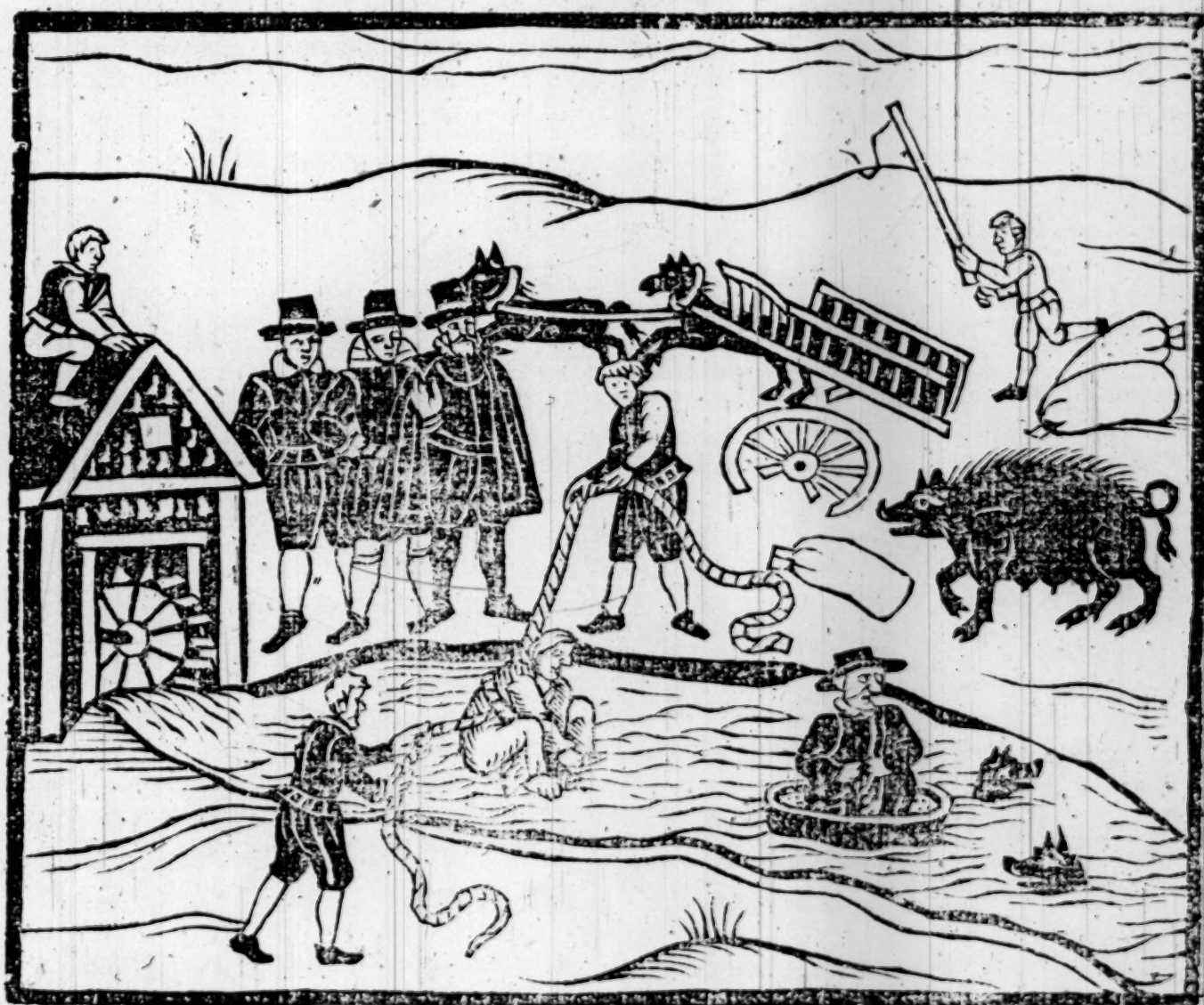


amined and Executed, for notable
villanies by them committed both by
Land and Water.

*With a strange and most true triall how to know
whether a woman be a Witch
or not.*



Printed at London for *Edward Marchant*, and are to
be sold at his Shop over against the Crosse in Pauls
Church-yard. 1613.

Lohut Brand, Somerset Place Jan 3rd 1802.
most



The feuerall and damnable
practises of Mother Sutton, and Mary
Sutton her daughter of Milton Milles,
in the Countie of Bedford: who
were lately arraigned con-
uicted, and exe-
cuted.



Linie writes
of some kinde
of Serpentes
that dare not
approach the
wild Ashtree,
nay the sight
of it is so ter-
rible to them,
they flee from
it, and will
not draw neer
the shadowe
thereof, but if they be walled round with fire,
they will rather runne through to the confusion
of

Witches lately arraigned

of themselves then endure it. If it were so with vs which professe our selues Christians, & should be Christes sonnes to imitate our Father, and Sauour in his life, which hee left as a lesson to mankinde his children to learne, we should then hauing reason, (part of the inheritance of Angels) be more prouident of our proper good then Serpents are, who to auoid the persecution of their minde, will endure the affliction of their bodie, and to shunne the verie shadow of the Ash-tree, will thrust themselves into torment of fire: So should men, who seeing sinne like a wild Ash-tree grow in the world, and that to lurke vnder the shadow thereof is a whippe to their conscience, when to feed on the sappe is damnation to their soules, in this onely like Serpents auoid it for the reliefe of their mindes, though with the painefull dissolution of their bodies: but such is the deafnesse of our eares, that though heauen it selfe speak in thunder to remember vs a day shall come when we must giue account for our wilfull transgressions, wee not regard it, and such the hardnesse of our hearts, that neither treasons, murders, witchcrafts, fires, flouds, of all which the impetuous course hath bene such in this age, that we haue cause to looke our day of summons is to morrow, if not this houre, yet we are vnprepared of our account, and as if it were lawfull that euils should grow, many from one, and one from another, are as corne is fruitfull from one seede to seuerall eares. So from one sinne we
mul

and executed.

multiply to diuers, not dreading vengeance till our iniquities be numberlesse. As shall appeare by this following discourse.

At a place called Milton some thre miles from Bedford, was lately dwelling one Mother Sutton, who being a widow, and of declining yeares, had her daughter called Mary Sutton, (as it was thought by the neighbours thereabouts) resident with her as a stay and comfort to her age, when she kept her, but as a furtherer to her diuellish practises, may indeed to make her a scholar to the Diuell himselfe.

This widow Sutton hauing bene dwelling a long time in the foresaid, towne of Milton, and not suspected as then to haue bene a practiser in this diuellish exercise of witchcraft, was by the townsmen (being held but pore) for her better reliefe chosen to be the Hogheard, or Hog-keeper. In which seruice she continued long, not without commendations for her dutifull care had therein. And though many cattell oftentimes miscarried, and were taken with staggering, frensies, and other diseases to their confusions, and impouering of the owners, yet she not till of late suspected to be a cause thereof, though since it hath euidently bene proued against her.

Continuing thus almost for the space of twentie, or one and twentie yeares, and in that time had brought her daughter to be as perfect in her diuellish charmes as her selfe, there grew some difference betwene a Gentleman of worship cal-

Witches lately arraigned;

led Master Enger dwelling at Milton Milles, and this mother Sutton, On whom she had vowed to take a strange and actuall reuenge for the discontent she had conceived against him, which rancour of hers she thus prosecuted: His horses that were left well in his stable ouer night, she caused them to be found dead in the morning, some strangled, some hauing beaten out their braines, others dead, and no cause perceined how. Besides this losse, which for the strangenesse bred some amazement in him, for that it happened not once, but often, this also did second it: When his Swine were in the fields at their troughes eating their meat, some of them would sodainly fall madde, and violently fall to tearing out the guts, and bowels of their fellowes: others by ten and twentie in a company, as if they had ben carried with one desire, would leaue their feeding, and run headlong into the Mill dammes, and drowne themselves. So that not by accidentall meanes, but the hellish and most damnable witchcrafts of this Mother Sutton, and her daughter, many these harmelesse cattell and Dren, made as needfull reliefes to the necessitie of man, were thus perplered, and an honest and worshipful Gentleman Master Enger, from whom she had oftentimes both foode and cloathing, damnified by her meanes to the value of two hundred pounds in lesse then two yeares.

In the time of these aforesaid losses happened to Master Enger, one Henry Sutton, the bastard son
of

and executed

sonne of Mary Sutton (for it is to bee noted, that although she was neuer married, yet she had three bastards) comming to play himselfe about the Mill damme, fell to throwing in of stones, dirt, and filth, with other such unhappinesse incident to chldren: Of which hauing bene often forewarned by an ancient seruant of Master Engers, who was then about the Milles, and finding the boy notwithstanding his admonishment rather to perseuer then to desist from his knauerie, he came to him, and giuing him a little blow or two on the eare, the boy went home crying, and the ancient fellow went backe to his labour.

This Henry Sutton comming home beganne to tell his mother how a man of Master Engers (naming him) had beaten him. Whose venomous nature being sone enkindled, though hee had receiued no hurt, she vowed to take reuenge, and thus it followed.

This ancient seruant with another of his masters men were on the morrow being Market day at Bedford, appointed by their master to carry a Cart load of corne for the furnishing of the Market. Being on their way at Milton Townes end they espied a goodly faire blacke Sow grazing, who as they draue their Teame still kept pace with the till they came within a mile of Bedford. Where on a sodaine they perceiued her to turne twice or thrice about as readily as a Windmill sayle at worke: And as sodainly their horses fell to starting and drauing some one way, some
B another,

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another: At last the strongest preuailing, they drew away the Cart, and corne, and left the Wheeles, and Areltree behinde them. The horses they ranne away with their load, as if they had beene madde, and the two fellows after the horses, the horses being affrighted halfe out of their strength, and the fellows as much madde to see them, downe went one sacke on this side the Cart, and another on that: The horses they ranne as if they would haue swelted themselves, and the fellows after them breathlesse, and sweating to make the wilde Jades stay. All which till the Diuell and the Witch had plaide their partes would not serue turne.

At last this Tragicke Comedie drawing to an end, they made a stand, when the seruants bringing them backe, and finding their Areltree, pinnes, and all things vnbroken, tooke vp their Corne, made fit their Cart againe, & the horses drew as formally as could be: And they went forthwards towards Bedford, mistrusting nothing, though they saw the Sow following and grazing, as they did before.

Being come to Bedford, and hauing vnloaden the Cart, and made sale of the Corne, the one fell to drining the Teame home againe, leaving his ancienter fellow behind him at Bedford who happening into company, fell a carowling with boone companions like himselfe, and in the height of their cuppes, they as desirous to heare,
as

and executed.

as he to tell, he related vnto them the manner and
forme how his Cart and Wheeles were diuorced as
hee was comming to Towne: some wondered,
all laughed: the company brake by, and this an-
cient servant toke his horse with purpose to o-
uertake his fellow, who was gone before with
the Cart: Who no sooner was out of Bedford
Townes end, but he might behold the same Sow
(as nere as he could iudge,) grazing againe, as
if the Diuell and the Witch had made her his
footman to waite vpon him. But the fellow not
mistrusting any thing, made his Page take a
spiedie amble, and so to ouertake the Cart,
while the Sow side by side ranne along by him.
When he ouertaking his fellow, and had scarce
spoken to him, but the horses (as before) fell to
their old contention running one from another,
onely the horses were better furnished then be-
fore, for where at first they left both Wheeles
and Axeltree behinde them, they now had the
Axeltree to take their part, leauing the Wheeles
in the high way for the seruants to bring after.
The horse in this manner comming home, draue
all the beholders into amazement, and the ser-
uants beginning to haue mistrust of the blacke
Sow, they watcht whither she went, whom they
found to goe into Mother Suttons house, of which
they told their master, and of all the accidents a-
foresaid, who made slight of it to them whatsoe-
uer he conceiued of it himselfe: and saying he sup-
posed they were drunke, they departed.

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The same old seruant of Master Engers with, in few daies after going to plough, fell into talks of Mother Sutton, and of Mary Sutton her daughter, of what pranches hee had heard they had plaide thereabouts in the Countrey, as also what accidents had befallen him and his fellow, as they had passed to and from Bedford. In discoursing of which a Beetle came, and stroke the same fellow on the breast: and hee presently fell into a trance as he was guiding the Plough, the extremitie whereof was such, as his senses altogether distract, and his bodie and minde vtterly distempered, the beholders deemed him cleane hopelesse of recouerie, yea his other fellow vpon this sodaine sight was stricken into such amazement, as he stood like a liuelesse trunke deuided from his vitall spirits, as farre vnable to helpe him, as the other was needfull to be helpt by him. Till at length being somewhat recouered, and awaked from that astonishment, hee made halt homeward, and carried his master word of what had happened.

Vpon deliuerie of this newes (for hee was a man highly esteemed by him for his honest and long service) there was much moane made for him in the house, and Master Enger himselfe had not the least part of grieve for his extremitie, but with all possible speed hastened into the field, and vsed helpe to haue him brought home. After which he neglected no meanes, nor spared any cost that might ease his seruant, or redeeme him from the misrey

and Executed.

miserie he was in, but all was in vaine: for his extasies were nothing lessened, but continued a long time in as grieuous perplexitie as at first, yet though they suspected much, they had no certaine prooue or knowledge of the cause: Their meanes were therefore the shorter to cure the effect. But as a thiefe, when hee entereth into a house to robbe, first putteth out the lights, according to that, Qui male agit, odit lucem, He that doth euill, hateth light, so these Impes that liue in the gunshot of diuellish assaults, goe about to darken and disgrace the light of such as are toward, and vertuous, and make the night the instrument to contriue their wicked purposes. For these Witches hauing so long, and couertly continued to doe much mischief by their practises, were so hardened in their lewde and vile proceeding, that the custome of their sinne had quite taken away the sense and feeling thereof, and they spared not to continue the perplexitie of this old seruant both in bodie and minde, in such sort that his friends were as desirous to see death ridde him from his extremitie, as a woman great with childe is euer musing vpon the time of her deliuerie: For where distresse is deepe, and the conscience cleare, Mors expectatur absque formidine, exoptatur cum dulcedine, excipitur cum deuotione. Death is looked for without feare, desired with delight, and accepted with deuotion. As the actes and enterprises of these wicked persons are darke and diuellish: so in the perseu-

Witches lately arraigned,

rance of this fellowes perleritie, hee being in his distraction both of bodie and minde, yet in bed and awake, espied Mary Sutton, (the daughter) in a Mooneshine night come in at a window in her accustomed and personall habite, and shape, with her knitting worke in her hands, and sitting downe at his beds fete, sometimes working, and knitting with her needles, and sometimes gazing and staring him in the face, as his grieke was thereby redoubled and increased. Not long after she drewe nearer vnto him, and saie by his bedde side (yet all this while he had neyther power to stirre or speake) and told him if hee would consent she should come to bedde to him, hee should be restored to his former health and prosperitie. Thus the Diuell strives to enlarge his Kingdome, and vpon the necke of one wickednesse to heape another: So that Periculum probat transeuntium raritas, pereuntium multitudo: In the dangerous Sea of this world, the rarenesse of those that passe the same ouer safe, and the multitude of others that perish in their passage, sufficiently proue the perill wee liue in: In the Ocean Sea, of foure shippes not one miscarries. In the Sea of this world, of many sowers, not one escapes his particular crosse and calamitie: yet in our greatest weaknesse and debilitie, when the Diuell is most busie to tempt vs, and seduce vs from God, then is God strongest in the hearts of his children, and most readie to bee auxiliant, and helping to saue

and Executed.

saue and vphold them from declining, and falling. Gods liberalitie appsaes more, then his rigour, for whom hee drawes out the Diuels throat by faith, hee would haue to trample him downe by vertue, least he should onely haue fled, not foyled his enemye.

This is made shewne in his miraculous working with this fellow: for hee that before had neither power to moue, or speake, had then presently by diuine assistance free power and libertie to giue repulse to her assault, and deny all to her filthie and detested motion: and to vpbraide her of her abhominable life and behaviour, hauing before had three bastards and neuer married. She vpon this (seeing her suite cold, and that Gods power was more predominant with him then her diuellish practise, banished, and departed the same way shee came.

She was no sooner gone, but as well as hee could, hee called for his master, told him that now hee could tell him the cause of this vexation: That Mother Suttons daughter came in at the window, sate knitting and working by him, and that if hee would haue consented to her filthinesse, hee should haue beene freed from his miserie, and related all that had happened.

His master was glad of this newes, for that the meanes found out, the matter and manner of his grieve might bee the easier helped, and redressed:

Witches lately arraigned;

sed, yet was he distrustfull of the truth, and rather esteemed it an idlenesse of his braine, then an accident of veritie: Neuerthelesse he resolved to make proofe thereof.

The next morrow hee tooke company along with him, and went into the fields, where hee found her working, and tending her hogges. There Master Eger speaking to her, she was a verie good huswife, and that shee followed her worke night and day: No sir, said she, My huswifery is very slender, neyther am I so good a follower of my worke as you perswade mee: with that, he told her that she was, and that she had bene working at his house the night before. She would confesse nothing, but stood in stiffe deniall vpon her purgation: Insomuch as the Gentleman by sayre entreaties perswaded her to goe home with him, to satisfie his man, and to resolve some doubts that were had of her. She vtterly refused, and made answer she would not stirre a foote, neyther had they authoritie to compell her to goe without a Constable: Which Master Eger perceiuing, and seeing her obstinarie to be so great, fell into a greater dislike, and distrust of her then he did before, and made no more ado, but caused her to bee set vpon an horse-backe to be brought to his house. All the company could hardly bring her away, but as fast as they set her vp, in despight of them shee would swarue downe, first on the one side, then the other, till at last they were faine by maine force

and executed

force to ioyne together, and hold her violently downe to the horsebacke, and so bring her to the place where this perplexed person lay in his bed. Where being come, and brought by force to his bed-side, he (as directions had bene given vnto him) drew blood of her, and presently beganne to amend, and bee well againe. But her assiduitie and continuall exercise in doing mischief, did so preuaile with her to doe this fellow further hurt, that watching but aduantage, and opportunitie to touch his necke againe with her finger: It was no sooner done, and she departed, but he fell into as great or farre worse veration then he had before.

The report of this was carried vp and downe all Bedford-shire, and this Marie Suttons wicked and lewde courses being rumozed as well abroad, as in Master Engers house, at last it came into the mouth of Master Engers sonne, (being a little boy of seuen yeares old) who not long after espying old Mother Sutton going to the Mill to grinde corne, and remembryng what speeches he had heard past of her and her daughter followed the old woman, flinging stones at her, and calling her Witch, which shee obseruing conceited a rancour, and deadly hatred to this young childe, and purposed not to suffer opportunitie passe to bee reuenged. As soone therefore as she had dispatcht at the Mill, she halted homewards, and could not be quiet till she had grumbled to her daughter what had happened, and
C how

Witches lately arraigned

how the childe had serued her ; Then confer-
ring how Master Eger had vsed Mary Sutton
the daughter, and how hir little sonne had vsed
the Mother, they both resolved, and bowed re-
uenge. This conference and consultation of vil-
lanie was had, and concluded in the presence,
and hearing of Henry Sutton, (the Bastard of
Mary Sutton) little thinking that his fortune
should be to giue in euidence to breake the necke
of his owne Mother and Grandmother.

To effect their diuellish purpose to the young
childe of Master Eger, they called by their two
Spirits, whom she called Dicke and Iude: and ha-
uing giuen them sucke at their two Teats which
they had on their thighes (found out afterwards
by enquirie, and search of women) they gaue
them charge to strike the little boy, and to turne
him to torment. Which was not long in perfor-
ming, but the childe being distract, was put to
such bitter and insupportable misery, as by his
life his torments were augmented, and by his
death they were abridged. For his tender and
vnripe age was so infeeble and made weake
by that diuellish infliction of extremitie, as in
foue daies, not able longer to endure them, death
gaue end to his perplexities.

The Gentleman did not so much griue for
the losse and hinderance hee had in his cattell,
(which was much) nor for the miserable dis-
tresse that his seruant had endured (which was
more) as that the hopefull daies of his young
sonne

and executed.

some were so vntimely cut off : (which touched his heart most of all.) Yet did his discretion temper his passions with such patience, that he referred the remembrance of his wrongs to that heauenly power, that permits not such iniquitie to passe vnruealed, or vnrueenged.

As hee was thus wrapt in a Sea of woes, there came a Gentleman a friend of his forth of the North, that traouelling towards London sojourned with him all night. Hee perceiuing Master Enger to be full of grieffe, was desirous to know the cause thereof, and hee was as vnwilling by the discourse of his misfortunes to renewe his many sorrowes, till at last his friends vrgent importunacie perswaded him not to passe it ouer with silence. Upon Master Engers relation of what had happened : the Gentleman demaunded if hee had none in suspicion that should doe these wronges vnto him : Yes, (quoth Master Enger) and therewithall hee named this Mary Sutton and her mother, and told him the particulars of his losses and miseries. His friend vnderstanding this, aduised him to take them, or any one of them to his Will damme, hauing first shut vp the Will gates that the water might be at highest, and then binding their armes crosse, stripping them into their Smocks, and leauing their legges at libertie, throw them into the water, yet least they should not bee Witches, and that their liues might not be in danger of drow-

Witches larely arraigned

ning, let there be a roape tyed about their middles, so long that it may reach from one side of your damme to the other, where on each side let one of your men stand, that if she chance to sinke they may draw her vp and preserve her. Then if she swimme, take her vp, & cause some women to search her, vpon which, if they finde any extraordinary marks about her, let her the second time be bound, and haue her right thumb bound to her left toe, and her left thumb to her right toe, and your men with the same rope (if need be) to preserve her, and bee throwne into the water, when if she swimme, you may build vpon it, that she is a Witch, I haue scene it often tried in the North countrey,

The morrow after Master Enger road into the fields where Mary Sutton (the daughter) was, hauing some of his men to accompany him, where after some questions made vnto her, they assayed to binde her on horse backe, when all his men being presently bricken lame, Master Enger himselfe began to remember, that once rating her about his man, he was on the sodaine in the like perplexitie, and then taking courage, and desiring God to bee his assistance, with a cudgell which he had in his hand, he beate her till she was scarce able to stirre. At which his men presently recovered, bound her to their Masters horse, and brought her home to his house, & shutting vp his Mill gates did as before the Gentleman had aduised him: when being throwne in the first time
she

and Executed.

Shee sunke some two fote into the water with a fall, but rose againe, and floated vpon the water like a planke. Then he commanded her to be taken out, and had women readie that searched her and found vnder her left thigh a kind of Beate, which after the Bastard sonne confest her Spirits in severall shapes as Cats, Doales, &c. vled to sucke her.

Then was she the second time bound crosse her thumbes and toes, according to the former direction, and then she sunke not at all, but sitting vpon the water, turned round about like a whale, or as that which commonly we call a whirlepole. Notwithstanding Master Engers men standing on each side of the damme with a roape tossing her vp and downe to make her sinke, but could not.

And then being taken vp, she as boldly as if she had bene innocent asked them if they could doe any more to her: When Master Enger began to accuse her with the death of his cattell, the languish of his man, who continued in sorrow both of bodie and mind from Christmasse to Shrovetide, as also the death of his sonne: All which she constantly denied, and stood at defiance with him till being carried towards a Iustice, Master Enger told her it was bootlesse to stand so obstinately vpon deniall of those matters, for her owne sonne Henry had reuealed all, both as touching her selfe and her mother, and of the time and manner of their plotting to torment his little boy: when she heard that, her heart misgaue her, she confessed

Witches lately arraigned,

all, and acknowledged the Diuell had now left her to that shame that is reward to such as follow him. Upon which confession, the mother also was apprehended, and both being committed to Bedford Gaole, many other matters were there produced against them, of long continuance (for they had remained as before, about twentie yeares) in the prosecute of these lewd and wicked practises. But for this matter of Master Eger at the last Assises, the evidence of the Bastard son, and the confessions severally taken both of old Mother Sutton & her daughter Mary, found them guiltie in al former objections. So that arraigned at Bedford on Sunday the thirtieth of March last past, they had a iust conuiction, and on Tuesday the next day after they were executed.

FINIS.

